Economic prices for oilseeds

*275. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICUTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to fix economic prices for oilseeds to encourage production of edible oils, and cut the imports,; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b) It is the established policy of the Government to fix minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities, including oilseeds such that these not only cover the costs of production but leave a sufficient margin to the farmer as an incentive for higher production. Minimum support prices are thus fixed at remunerative leaves. For the current marketing season the minimum support prices fixed for various oilseeds are as under:—

	(Rs./qtl.)
—Groundnut	350
—Soyabean (black)	250
—Soyabean (yellow)	275
—Sunflower	335
—Rapeseed-Mustard	385

(for 1984-85 crop)

Over the last few years the minimum support prices of oilseeds have been progressively increased each year in order to provide an additional incentive towards higher production of indigenous oilseeds and in turn reduce the imports of edible oils.

Closing down of Television Centre at Pij, District Kaira in Gujarat

*276. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Television Centre at Pij, District Kaira in Gujarat is to be closed down and disbanded;

(b) whether Government have alternate plans to continue SITE programmes from Pij;

(c) whether Government are aware that a public agitation against the decision of Government to shift Television Centre is continuing for the last three months; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL). (a) Operation of the 1 KW TV !ransmitter at &Pij has been stopped 'I? with effect from July 25, 1985 as the areas sII3Id by this transmitter are being satisfactorily covered by the 10KW TV transmitter commissioned at Ahmedabad on the that date.

(b) The rural developmental programmes produced by the Space Application Centres, Ahmedabad and put out earlier from the Transmitter at Pij continue to be tellcast by the transmitter at Ahmedabad and are thus now a ailable to much wi?Ir viewership.

(c) and (d) Closing down of the TV transmitter at Pij has in no way affected the viewers of Kaira district of Gujarat in as much as as the 10 KW TV transmitter at Ahmedabad fully covers the areas covered by the 1 KW transmitter 1 KW transmitter at Pij and the programmes put out from the Pij transmitter continued to be telecast

by the transmitter at Ahmedabad. This position has been explained repeatedly to the Chief Minister of Gujarat as well as other important personalities from the State. The local officers of Doordarshan have also tried to explain this to the viewers Iaxliar started by the transmitter at Pij, including the small group of people who have rsoerted to agiagitation consequent on he closing down of the waid transmitter.

Vamsadhara Project and Sri Sailam Left Bank Canal

*277. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Central Government to clear Polavaram, Vamsadhara and Srisailam left bank canal Projects;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action the Central Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The State Government have been requesting early clearance to Polavaram Project and Vamsadhara Project State-II The Project Report of Srisailam Left Bank Canal has been received in February, 1985.

The Polavaram Project with left and right bank canals envisages annual irrigation of 4.37 lakh hectares, the transfer of 80 TMC of Godavari waters to Krishna, hydel power generation and domestic & industrial water supply. The Vamsadhara Project envisages irrigation of about 43,000 hectares. The Srisailam left bank canal project envisages irrigation of 1.21 lakh hectares.

These three projects are at present under various stages of technical scrutiny in the Central Water Commission in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. They can be considered for clearance after their techno-economic feasibility is established and inter-State aspects resolved.

National Land Use Policy

*278. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Land Use Policy has been formulated;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the recommendations of the erstwhile National Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission, a Committee of Experts was set up by the Government in April, 1984. The Committee of Experts submitted its report in December, 1984 which was circulated to the concerned Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments, State Land Use Boards and some Agricultural Universities and Institutions. The comments received from them were considered by the Committee of Experts and the report was suitably modified, wherever considered necessary. The main details of the draft outline of a National Land Use Policy prepared by the Committee of Experts are :—

(i) To enhance the aggregate return from land based production system and to manage land with twin objectives continuous increase in productivity and preventing land degradation.